

NEH Conference
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Glory: The Shaw and 54th Massachusetts
Regiment Memorial

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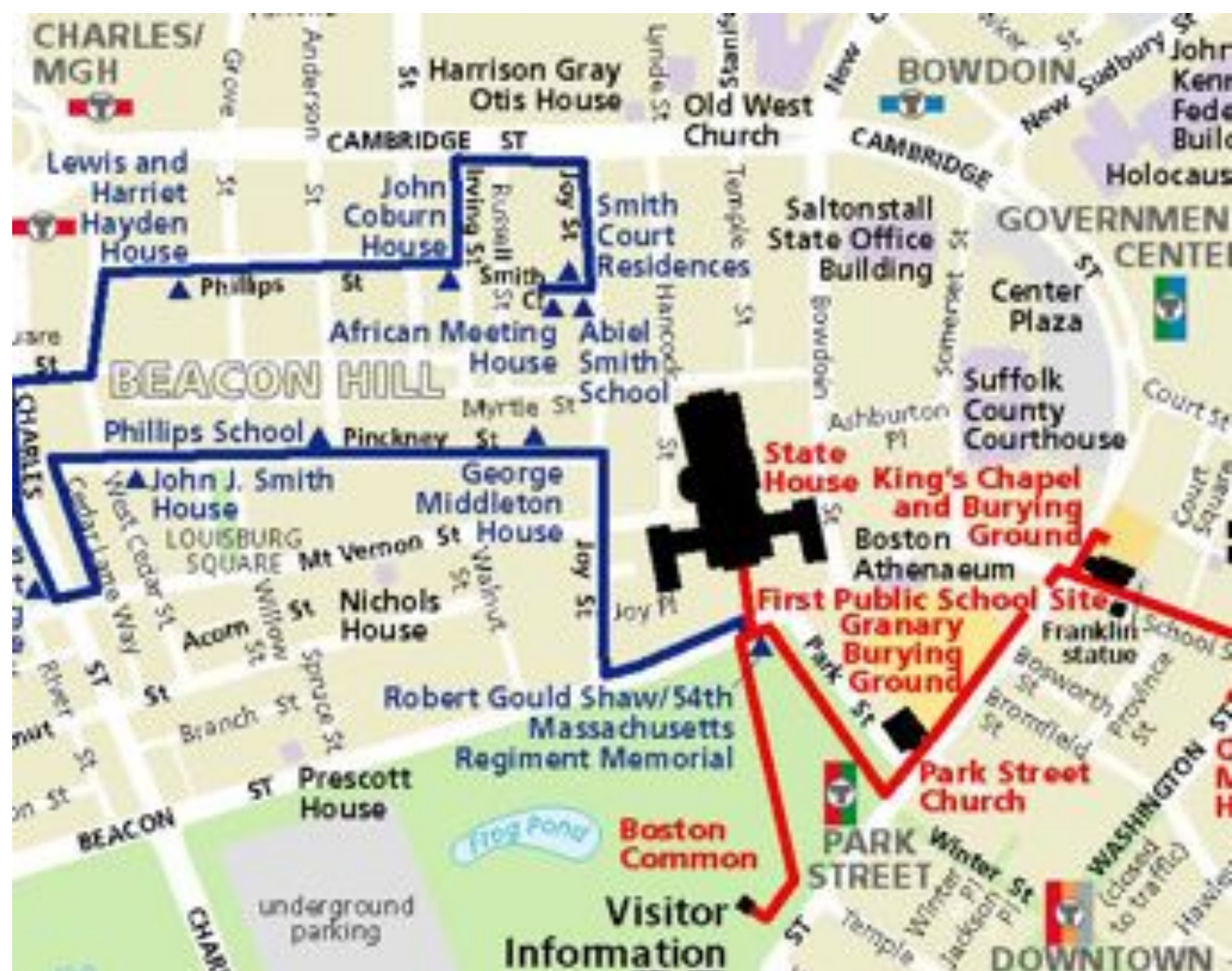
Great Hall of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1908
Retrospective of Saint-Gaudens's work, curated by
sculptor Daniel Chester French



Shaw Memorial in the snow

John Berryman *For the Union Dead* 1942 and Robert Lowell *Boston Common* 1960





Panorama of traffic, people, visitors to the Shaw Memorial July 2010



Massachusetts State House

Charles Bulfinch architect



Section I:

Saint Gaudens's early training

- Born Dublin, Ireland in 1848-
- family immigrated to New York
- Apprenticeship with cameo cutter in New York
- from age 13
- Artistic education in Paris 1867-69
- Admitted to Ecole des Beaux Arts
- To Rome in 1870; studied antiquity, first patrons there
- 1870-75

ASG Mars (cameo) 1873



Equestrian monument of Marcus Aurelius, emperor of Rome 2nd century CE



Saint-Gaudens's first monument commissions for public art

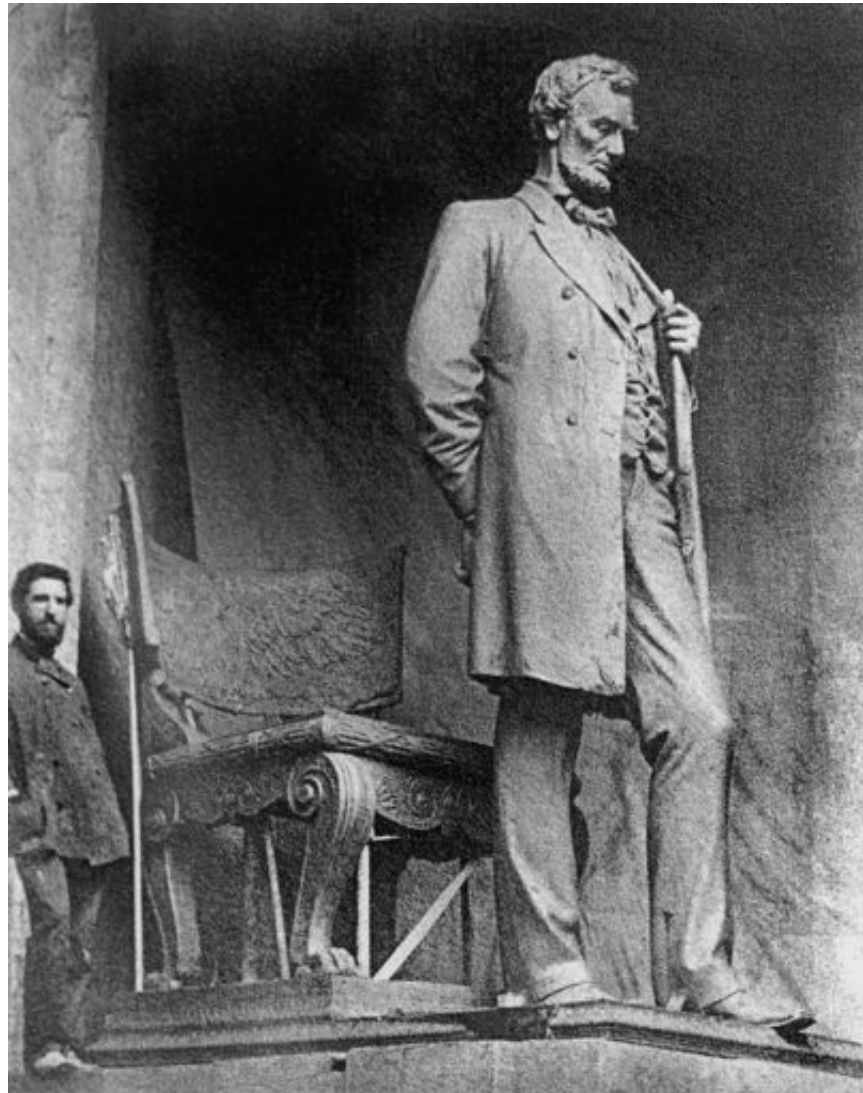
The Farragut Monument, New York 1881

- The Standing Lincoln, Washington DC 1877
- (later Chicago and London, England)
- Diana, first put in place (18ft high in 1891, taken down) replaced with 13 ft version. 1892
- The Puritan, Springfield Massachusetts 1886

ASG Monument to Adm. David Farragut, Madison Square, NY 1881



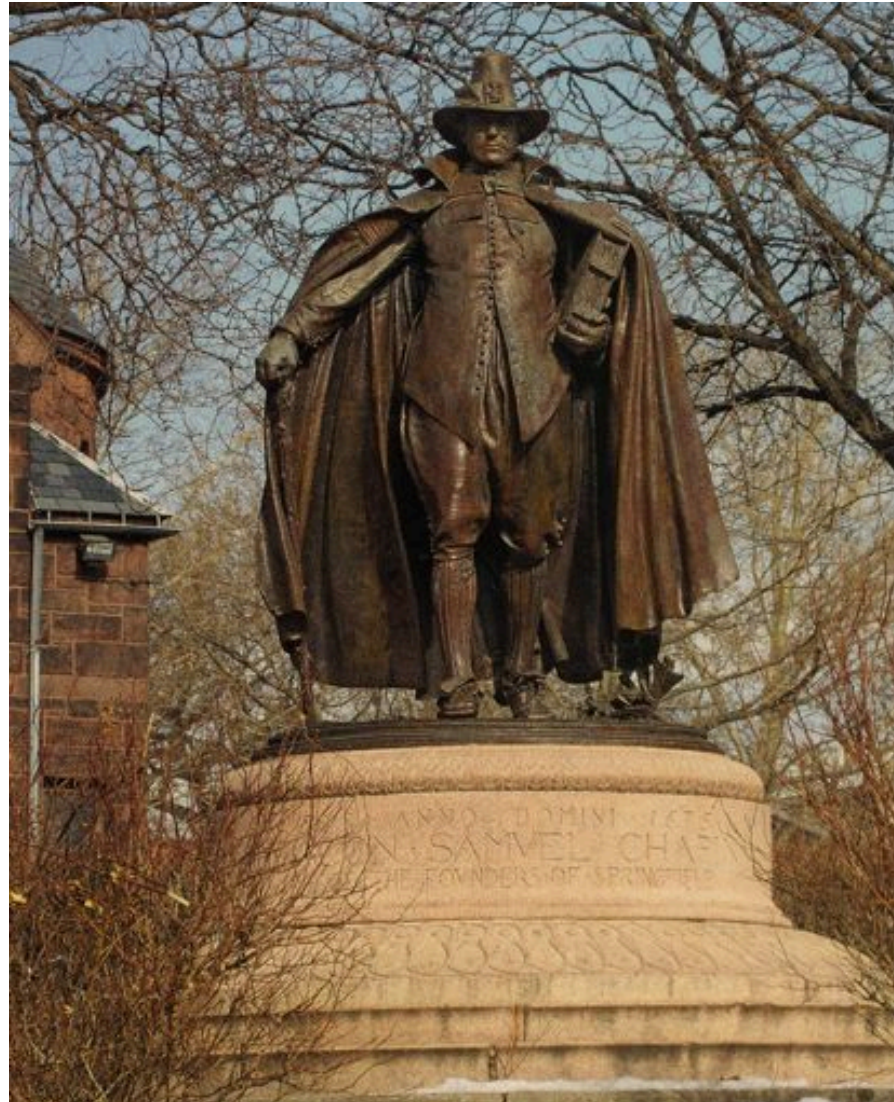
Saint Gaudens beside the Standing Lincoln c 1876-77



ASG Standing Lincoln Washington 1877
Placed in London 1920



Saint-Gaudens The Puritan 1886
Springfield, Mass.

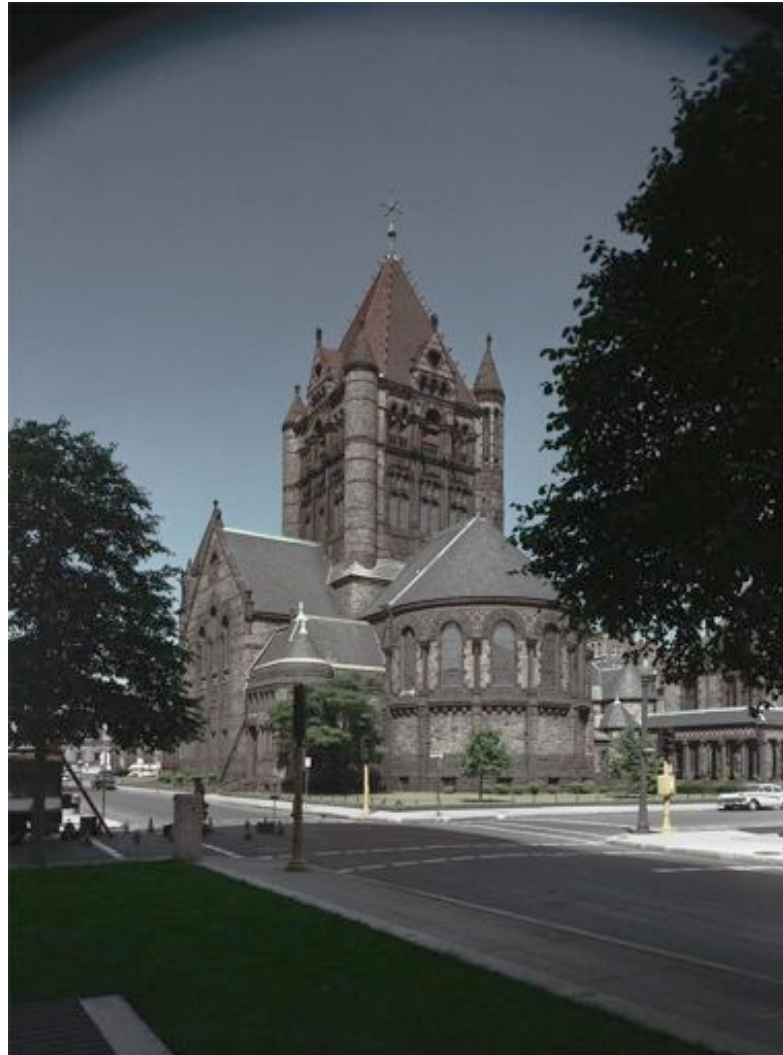


The origins of the commission for the Shaw Memorial

- How Saint-Gaudens won the prize without a competition
- Chosen and recommended by architect H. H. Richardson after the great success of the Farragut.
- Architectural friendships--Trinity Church and painting (St Paul in the central tower)
- of Richardson and his apprentice Charles F. McKim

H. H. Richardson Trinity Church

Boston Dedicated 1877



Saint-Gaudens. Josephine “Effie” Shaw Lowell
(sister of Robert Gould Shaw) Paris 1899.



American painter of Civil war themes

Winslow Homer (1836-1910)

- Began career as artist-journalist for *Harper's Weekly*, only 25 years old when he first began to work for the journal, sent to the battlefields to draw scenes of soldiers in combat and in camp.
- Translated battlefield scenes from onsite observation –These became the printed engravings published in the news
- First oil paintings of Civil War themes c 1862, when he painted *The Sharpshooter*, with a newly invented Berdan rifle, a technology that allowed soldiers to aim at the target through the crosshairs. New technology, aim to kill, was a shocking advance.

Winslow Homer Prisoners from the Front 1866



Winslow Homer Veteran in a New Field 1865



Homer *Prisoners from the Front: detail*
Near Andersonville 1865-66



Details of the Shaw Memorial

- The Shaw as site of memory and observation
-
- Reverberation and resonance
-
- Details of the African American soldiers and
- Comparisons with actual photos from the Mass. Historical Society files.
-



Hooker Monument (equestrian statue –what
the Shaw family did not want)
Boston State House



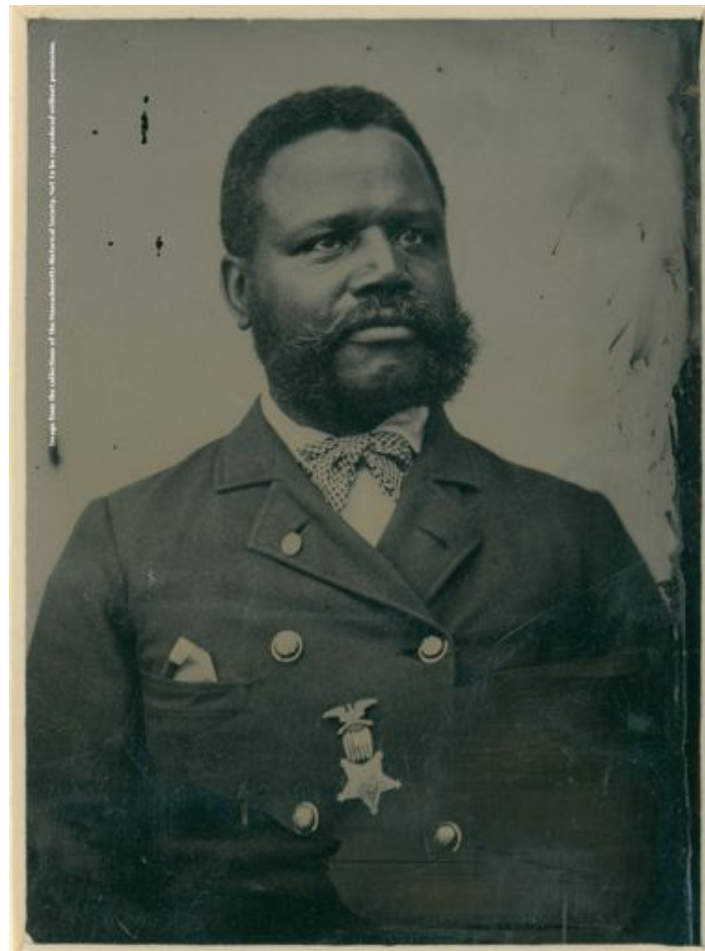
Shaw and the 54th Mass. Regiment Memorial Inaug. May 1897



Detail of the forward march



Sgt Charles Smith
54th Regiment soldier - Tintype photo
MassHistorical Society files.



Detail of soldiers' legs in high to low relief



Shaw: Back left corner of the memorial—Pine cone and evergreen



Shaw Memorial with inscriptions on back:
Text author was Pres. Charles Eliot, Harvard
University



Shaw and 54th Mass. Regiment Memorial - Plaster
version - National Gallery Washington DC



Detail of the gilded plaster version of the Shaw in Washington DC



National Gallery Washington

Early relief of figure of Peace



The Sherman Monument

- Sherman Monument was commissioned in 1892, soon after the General's death.
- Saint-Gaudens had earlier sculpted his portrait bust in 1888, after 18 sittings (Bust is in American wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art)
- Monument inaugurated in 1904 at southern entrance to Central Park, New York City







Nike of Samothrace

Paris Louvre

2nd C. AD

The antique source
for Sherman's
Victory